

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Amended). A method of automatically manufacturing a computer comprising:
- receiving an order from a customer;
 - assembling together a selection of hardware components specified by the order; and
 - loading onto the computer a software package specified by the order,
- including:
- providing an Internet-accessible page for the customer to specify any desired software modifications;
 - recording the modifications as an auto-configuration file; and
 - for each modification in the auto-configuration file, determining configuration data corresponding to the respective modification and entering the configuration data into the computer as the software package is being loaded.
2. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising verifying the modifications against order details.
3. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising verifying the modifications against current capabilities of the manufacturer.
4. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising logging the modifications as they are made.

5. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 3, further comprising logging the modifications as they are made.
6. (Previously Amended) Apparatus for automatically manufacturing a computer, comprising:
- an order unit for receiving an order from a customer;
 - an assembly unit for assembling together a selection of hardware components specified by the order; and
 - for loading onto the computer, a software package specified by the order including:
 - an Internet-accessible page onto which the customer can specify any desired software modifications;
 - a modification unit for recording the modifications as an auto-configuration file; and
 - for each modification in the auto-configuration file, a control unit for determining configuration data corresponding to the respective modification and entering the configuration data into the computer as the software package is being loaded.
7. (Previously Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for verifying the modifications against order details.
8. (Previously Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for verifying the modifications against current capabilities of the manufacturer.

9. (Previously Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for logging the modifications as they are made.
10. (Previously Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for logging the modifications as they are made.
11. (Currently Amended) An automated computer manufacturing method comprising:
- receiving an order from a customer;
 - downloading the order to a manufacturing unit;
 - including an auto-configuration indicator in the order for a special configuration requirement;
 - generating a flag to look for the special configuration requirement;
 - making an inquiry to a manufacturing database for the special configuration requirement; and if located, applying the special configuration requirement to the order; and
 - assembling together a selection of hardware components specified by the order;
 - loading into the computer a software package specified by the order,
 - including the steps of:
 - providing an Internet-accessible page for the customer to specify any desired software modifications;
 - recording the modifications as an auto-configuration file; and
 - for each modification in the auto-configuration file, determining any configuration data requirement corresponding to the respective modification and entering configuration requirement data into the computer as the software package is being loaded.

12. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising generating an order reference number.

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13. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising accepting the order.

14. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising processing the special configuration requirement in parallel with a standard configuration requirement.

15. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising logging the special configuration requirement into a manufacturing log.

16. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising shipping the order to the customer.

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17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising verifying each modification against the order.

19. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising verifying each modification against current manufacturing capabilities.

20. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising logging each of the modifications.